CLAIMS

1. A method (200) for performing channel detection, comprising:

tuning a first frequency channel (202);

determining whether a signal parameter associated with said first frequency channel exceeds a predetermined threshold (203); and

enabling a first channel acquisition operation responsive to determining that said signal parameter exceeds said predetermined threshold (207).

2. The method (200) of claim 1, further comprised of enabling a second channel acquisition operation after enabling said first channel acquisition operation (212).

3. The method (200) of claim 2, wherein:

said first channel acquisition operation includes acquisition of a digital broadcast channel; and

said second channel acquisition operation includes acquisition of an analog broadcast channel.

4. The method (200) of claim 3, wherein:

said digital broadcast channel is an ATSC channel; and

said analog broadcast channel is an NTSC channel.

5. The method (200) of claim 2, wherein:

said first channel acquisition operation includes acquisition of an analog broadcast channel; and

said second channel acquisition operation includes acquisition of a digital broadcast channel.

6. The method (200) of claim 5, wherein:

said analog broadcast channel is an NTSC channel; and

said digital broadcast channel is an ATSC channel.

7. The method (200) of claim 1, further comprised of tuning a second frequency channel responsive to determining that said signal parameter does not exceed said predetermined threshold (202).

8. The method (200) of claim 1, wherein said signal parameter includes amplitude.

9. The method (200) of claim 1, wherein said predetermined threshold varies based on signal source.

10. The method (200) of claim 1, wherein said predetermined threshold varies based on signal modulation.

11. An apparatus (100) for performing channel detection, comprising:

tuning means (10) for tuning a first frequency channel; and

processing means (36) for determining whether a signal parameter associated with said first frequency channel exceeds a predetermined threshold, and for enabling a first channel acquisition operation responsive to determining that said signal parameter exceeds said predetermined threshold.

12. The apparatus (100) of claim 11, wherein said processing means (36) further enables a second channel acquisition operation after enabling said first channel acquisition operation.

13. The apparatus (100) of claim 12, wherein:

said first channel acquisition operation includes acquisition of a digital broadcast channel; and

said second channel acquisition operation includes acquisition of an analog broadcast channel.

14. The apparatus (100) of claim 13, wherein:

said digital broadcast channel is an ATSC channel; and

said analog broadcast channel is an NTSC channel.

15. The apparatus (100) of claim 12, wherein:

said first channel acquisition operation includes acquisition of an analog broadcast channel; and

said second channel acquisition operation includes acquisition of a digital broadcast channel.

16. The apparatus (100) of claim 15, wherein:

said analog broadcast channel is an NTSC channel; and

said digital broadcast channel is an ATSC channel.

17. The apparatus (100) of claim 11, wherein said tuning means (10) tunes a second frequency channel responsive to said processing means (36) determining that said signal parameter does not exceed said predetermined threshold.

18. The apparatus (100) of claim 11, wherein said signal parameter includes amplitude.

19. The apparatus (100) of claim 11, wherein said predetermined threshold varies based on signal source.

20. The apparatus (100) of claim 11, wherein said predetermined threshold varies based on signal modulation.

21. A television signal receiver (100), comprising:

a tuner (10) operative to tune a first frequency channel;

a processor (36) operative to determine whether a signal parameter associated with said first frequency channel exceeds a predetermined threshold; and

a first demodulator (32 or 34) operative to perform a first channel acquisition operation responsive to said processor (36) determining that said signal parameter exceeds said predetermined threshold.

22. The television signal receiver (100) of claim 21, further comprising a second demodulator (32 or 34) operative to perform a second channel acquisition

operation after said first demodulator (32 or 34) performs said first channel acquisition operation.

23. The television signal receiver (100) of claim 22, wherein:

said first channel acquisition operation includes acquisition of a digital broadcast channel; and

said second channel acquisition operation includes acquisition of an analog broadcast channel.

24. The television signal receiver (100) of claim 23, wherein:

said digital broadcast channel is an ATSC channel; and

said analog broadcast channel is an NTSC channel.

25. The television signal receiver (100) of claim 22, wherein:

said first channel acquisition operation includes acquisition of an analog broadcast channel; and

said second channel acquisition operation includes acquisition of a digital broadcast channel.

26. The television signal receiver (100) of claim 25, wherein:

said analog broadcast channel is an NTSC channel; and

said digital broadcast channel is an ATSC channel.

27. The television signal receiver (100) of claim 21, wherein said tuner (10) is further operative to tune a second frequency channel responsive to said processor (36) determining that said signal parameter does not exceed said predetermined threshold.

28. The television signal receiver (100) of claim 21, wherein said signal parameter includes amplitude.

29. The television signal receiver (100) of claim 21, wherein said predetermined threshold varies based on signal source.

30. The television signal receiver (100) of claim 21, wherein said predetermined threshold varies based on signal modulation.